

Tuesdays with Tammy Nevada Libraries Forum
from
Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records
10 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
December 1, 2020

Attending: Tammy Westergard, Sulin Jones, Norma Fowler, NSLAPR; Kim Diehm, Boulder City; Diane Baker, Tod Colegrove, Carson City; Carol Lloyd, Churchill County; Joy Gunn, Marcie Smedley, Henderson; Jessica Anderson, Humboldt County; Forrest Lewis, North Las Vegas; Emily Giles, Joan Dalusung, Jeff Scott, Washoe County; Cyndi O, NV CoOp; Eric Walsh, GBC; Maggie Farrell, UNLV; Ron Belbin, WNC; Holly Esposito, Washoe Co. School District and SCLL; Randi Hunewill, Nancy Schmidt, SCLL.



WHAT PEOPLE ARE THINKING RIGHT NOW



Strengths:

- Libraries remain agile and community centered, providing essential services that reach beyond books and information; each library focuses on the needs of their own communities.
- Libraries pull together, help each other, and share with each other; Nevada libraries have created Communities of Practice around knowledge, innovation, and best practices.
- Library profession has opportunities to stay connected even though facilities may be closed and staff may be working from home.



Struggles:

- Maintaining core services for the public and a safe work environment for staff while operating under reduced hours and in compliance with health and safety protocols re: building capacity and lending of materials.
- Keeping staff working and keeping staff positions, pay, and benefits intact during shutdowns



Opportunities:

- Being clever, creative, and sustainable during these times creates support among communities we serve.
- Demonstrating effectiveness of libraries in times of crisis; providing tangible and essential services to assist communities during the COVID19 pandemic and economic downturn.
- Utilizing library staff and expertise to assist other City or County entities with providing services such as scheduling covid testing and vaccinations.



Trends

- Libraries will do things differently going forward and will retain some programs and services that provide added convenience for patrons or additional reach for the libraries such as curbside services and virtual programming.

Announcements:

- **New Tuesday Schedule beginning in December**
 - Meetings will be monthly starting December 2020
 - 1st Tuesday of the month, 10 am
- **Mental Wellness webinars are posted on the NSLAPR website:**
<https://nsla.nv.gov/COVID19/10MinuteWellness>
- **STEM kits available through Northwestern and Southern Nevada STEM Networks-**
 - Request form: <https://forms.gle/R2M7mJ2rFuA21iUh8>
 - Deadline for requests – December 8
- **DRI Green Boxes and STEM kits available for checkout –**
 - <https://www.dri.edu/science-alive/green-boxes/>
- **Upcoming Deadlines:**
 - **Public Library Survey – December 11**
 - **Minimum Public Library Standards Checklist, InfoNV certification – December 31**
 - **LSTA Competitive Proposal – January 15, 2021**
- **Save the Date:**
 - **Rural Library Summit: *Accelerating 3rd-Grade Reading Outcomes in Rural Places*, December 10,**
 - <https://www.berea.edu/pfe/librarysummit/>
 - **Summer Reading Workshop, January 13-14, 2021**
 - Registration:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZltfuCsqD4pGdf36CPxPQwz_9z3WN7mFLxS

Following the announcement about the summer reading workshop, Tammy Westergard, NSLAPR, mentioned that the Nevada Department of Education is working on Nevada Read Week and looking for resources so that they can continue providing MyOn in 2021. The NDE program budgets for early literacy and family literacy were reduced or eliminated in budget cuts. An assessment tool for determining reading grade level is being funded, but opportunities to deploy program interventions and amplify early reading and reading by grade three have been eliminated.

Nancy Schmidt, SCLL member and literacy advocate, expressed her concern that early literacy and family literacy programs were cut. The budget cuts point out the importance of other organizations that are working on early and family literacy and show that it's all the more critical for all the other organizations to work together.

Jeff Scott, Washoe County Library Director and board member for both United Way of Northern Nevada and Northern Nevada Literacy Council, agreed with Nancy and stated that the program cuts increase the importance of the school/library project which integrates libraries with schools and shows schools that libraries are helping to get kids ready for school. He pointed out that there is a good coalition of partners that will be able to pick up the slack.

Tammy concluded that this is our opportunity to deploy an aligned strategy to help formal education understand what libraries can contribute as well as an opportunity to practice working side by side.

Library News and Links:

- Carson City Library: <https://www.nevadaappeal.com/news/carson-city-library-installs-self-check-kiosks/>
- Forrest Lewis, NLA President – recognized Heela and Joy from the Henderson library for setting up a blog on the NLA website. He requested that all library districts contribute stories and pictures about what their libraries have done, especially during this year. He acknowledged that it's easy to start thinking that what you do isn't a big deal, but he is asking libraries to look back at what they have done in virtual programming, technology, and Covid response and start compiling the stories about it. The blog will be a good way for librarians to see what their peers are doing and an important one-stop resource for library advocacy in the upcoming legislative session. He expressed his belief that 2021 is going to be an amazing time for libraries to build on what has already been accomplished.
- Carol Lloyd, Churchill County Library Director, added that the Nevada Library Cooperative newsletter contains stories and photos which could be used for the purposes Forrest described. Carol and Cyndi O, CoOp Director, said they would provide newsletters to Forrest.
- Norma Fowler, NSLAPR – stated that a Lincoln County Library employee, Laci Fiatoa, lost her husband to Covid related complications this past weekend and has four young sons. The Lincoln County Library system is accepting donations on her behalf at Lincoln County Library, P.O. Box 330, Pioche, NV 89043

Library Check-ins:

Diane Baker, Carson City – In response to the most recent directive from the Governor, the library building has been closed to the public; curbside service hours and promotion have been increased. Virtual programming is going strong, and virtual Turkey Bingo was a big hit with more participants than in past years.

Forrest Lewis, North Las Vegas – Things are slowing down, and City Hall has been closed. The library has been doing curbside but as a thank you to staff, all services will be shut down between Christmas and New Year so staff can take off during that time if they wish.

Jeff Scott, Washoe County – The library closed just before Veterans' Day and is providing virtual services only, probably until January 4. Staff are being re-deployed to help the County health district with contact training and vaccine distribution.

Tod Colegrove, Carson City – There has been a call for all hands on deck to help with Covid testing and roll out of the vaccine. He also announced that Diane Baker will be retiring on December 17; Diane responded that even though she's retiring, she will still be working with the NLA Legislative agenda.

Jessica Anderson, Humboldt County – Mrs. Claus is recording storytimes to be shown between now and Christmas, and Santa Claus will be recording a storytime for Christmas Eve. Things are slow at the library and in Winnemucca, but the children's holiday storytimes will still be presented virtually.

Maggie Farrell, UNLV – Facilities will be closed after the end of the semester, and many staff will be taking their furloughs during that time. Hoping case count stays low but concerned about an increase after the holiday break.

As ALA Treasurer, Maggie said that things are tight with revenue streams from the conferences being cut, but she is encouraged by new energy and ideas coming from the new Executive Director. She encouraged people to take part in the monthly Connect calls <http://www.ala.org/membership/ala-connect-live-monthly-series> as a way to maintain a sense of connection within the profession and stressed the importance of strengthening state library associations.

Emily Giles, Washoe County – All is well; trying to stay connected.

Carol Lloyd, Churchill County – Library returned to curbside service only, and they are stepping up their YouTube videos on a variety of topics. Recently launched Hoopla and is interested to see how the “pay for use” model works and excited to be able to offer music to patrons for the first time. The library is closely connected to the County and County health department, and library staff are helping schedule covid tests.

Holly Esposito, Washoe County School District – School Board recently decided that elementary schools will stay open, but middle and high schools will be online-only through the end of the year. Due to a shortage of substitute teachers, all certified personnel are being asked to help in the classrooms. Tammy added that Holly is now on SCLL representing school libraries.

Kim Diehm, Boulder City – There’s a staff shortage due to staff being out because of illness and possible covid exposure. They are still doing curbside service six days a week, and the atrium will now be open only on Mon, Wed, and Sat for computer use and printing. Will be starting a new live online storytime on Friday.

Ron Belbin, WNC – College has a skeleton crew now except for the library since they provide essential services of study space and wifi access for students. They are still open the same hours and are seeing an increase in the number of students coming in to use the services.

Marcie Smedley, Henderson – Library is continuing with curbside and virtual services. In response to a question from Tammy about what she sees as the greatest opportunity post-covid, Marcie said she thinks they will do things differently in terms of convenience and reach. Curbside service will likely be continued as a convenience service, and virtual programs reach a different audience than in-person programs so a hybrid model of in-person and virtual will likely be adopted going forward. She also commented that she feels that will be permanent changes such as wariness about crowded spaces and increased awareness of good hygiene practices.

Joy Gunn, Henderson – Added to Marcie’s thoughts but saying she recently read a *Library Journal* article talking about adapting library architecture, increased focus on HVAC systems and increased use of outdoor space.

Eric Walsh, GBC – posted in Chat: “All is good at GBC.”

Joan Dalusung, Washoe County – The County Community Services department was tasked with putting together a call center to schedule vaccination appointments with staff working from home. They are implementing a version of the model the library created for providing telephone reference service.